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SYED HAMID TO ATTEND INAUGURATION OF NEW ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar will represent Malaysia at the inauguration of newly-elected Ecuadorean President Lucio Gutierrez Borbua on Wednesday, according to Wisma Putra.

Gutierrez, 45, a retired army colonel, assumes office on Jan 15. He defeated Alvaro Noboa in the run-off presidential elections last November and succeeds outgoing President Gustavo Noboa.

Wisma Putra said in a statement that this would be the Foreign Minister's first visit to Ecuador, during which he would also convey Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's formal invitation to Gutierrez to attend the Kuala Lumpur Non-Aligned Movement Summit next month.

Syed Hamid will also meet his counterpart, Dr Heinz Moeller, to exchange views on matters of mutual interest including bilateral relations, regional and international developments, as well as the forthcoming XII NAM Summit.

He is also expected to meet with other South American foreign ministers particularly those whose countries are NAM members.

-- BERNAMA

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